

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07922 271807Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----073232 271809Z /41
O O 271754Z APR 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8083
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BONN 07922

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR L AND EUR ONLY
BERLIN FOR SEMLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1&2
TAGS: GE GW PEPR CASC
SUBJECT: PRISONER EXCHANGE

REFS: (A) BONN 7620; (B) STATE 106671

1. BONN GENERALANZEIGER FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF VOGEL AND KALMANOWITSCH PROCESSING THROUGH FRG IMMIGRATION AT RHEIN/MAIN EN ROUTE TO US POINTS UP TYPE OF MEDIA INTEREST WE MUST EXPECT UPON VOGEL'S ARRIVAL WITH THOMPSON IN FRG AND TEGEL AND POSSIBLY AT BERLIN CROSSING POINT. THUS, BOTH EMBASSY AND MISSION BERLIN ARE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR PARTIES TO LEAVE PLANE AND EVADE PRESS IN FRG AND TEGEL BEFORE SWAP HAS BEEN CONSUMMATED. TO MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND TO INFORM MRS. VOGEL PER PARA 11 OF REFTEL (A), BOTH EMBASSY AND MISSION WILL NEED SCHEDULE WITH ETA'S INCLUDING FLIGHT NUMBERS AND FRG STOPOVER LOCATION SOONEST. EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO REACH FRAU VOGEL IN ESSEN TO PASS INFO PER PARA 11 OF REFTEL (A) ONLY UNTIL ABOUT 0930 LOCAL

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TIME FRIDAY, APRIL 28, BEFORE HER DEPARTURE FOR BERLIN. WE WOULD PREFER PASSING THIS INFO TO HER IN ESSEN TO PHONING HER IN GDR.

2. WHILE WE SHALL CONTAIN MEDIA ACCESS TO THOMPSON/ VOGEL BEFORE SWAP AS BEST WE CAN IN FRG AND WEST BERLIN, WE WILL REQUIRE GUIDANCE ON MEDIA HANDLING AFTER SWAP

EFFECTED. BERLIN PRESS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AND WITH GOOD REASON EXPECT TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION IN BERLIN OF SWAP. MOREOVER, MEDIA WILL PRESS FOR INTERVIEWS WITH AND COVERAGE OF VAN NORMAN AND HIS MOTHER IN BERLIN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE, BASED ON CONSULTATION WITH VAN NORMAN'S MOTHER, WHETHER VAN NORMAN AND SHE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GRANT SUCH INTERVIEW, PROVIDED DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION THERETO. ONE PURPOSE OF SUCH INTERVIEW WOULD BE TO AVOID HARASSMENT OF VAN NORMANS BY PRESS THEREAFTER. MEETING WITH MEDIA COULD BE HELD AT US MISSION WITH US MISSION SPOKESMAN AND VAN NORMAN, AFTER APPROPRIATE DELAY TO PERMIT HIM TO CATCH BREATH. IF SUCH A MEDIA MEETING IS APPROVED, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT BERLIN PRESS SPOKESMAN COULD SAY IN ADDITION TO RESPONSES GIVEN BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN AS CONTAINED STATE 105822. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY THOMPSON REACTION TO ENCOUNTER WITH PRESS IN FRG OR BERLIN BEFORE SWAP, AND DEGREE TO WHICH VOGEL BELIEVES HE CAN INFLUENCE THOMPSON TO AGREE TO AVOID PRESS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

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4. TO FACILITATE PASSAGE THROUGH FRG CUSTOMS, CAN BAGGAGE OF VAN NORMAN, THOMPSON AND SMITH BE STORED IN PASSENGER COMPARTMENT? WE WOULD SEEK TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT FOR FRG-BERLIN LEG OF TRIP.
STOESSEL

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